

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/629,706

Examiner

Duc Nguyen

Applicant(s)

BOSTOEN ET AL.

Art Unit

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Preliminary Amendment filed 7/30/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Duc Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2643

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-10 are allowed over the prior art of record.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to teach a method to qualify a local loop (LP), which connects customer premises (CP) to a central office of a telecommunication network (CO), and which comprises at least three loop terminations (TERM 1, TERM 2, TERM 3), the method comprising the steps of carrying out at a first loop termination (TERM 1) out of the at least three loop terminations a first reflectometry measurement of the local loop while a second loop termination out of the at least three loop terminations, which is wired to the customer premises, is loaded with a first impedance ($Z_L = Z_1$), thereby providing a first reflectogram, which is used for qualifying the local loop, characterized in that the method further comprises the steps of carrying out at the first loop termination a second reflectometry measurement of the local loop while the second loop termination is loaded with a second impedance distinct from the first impedance ($Z_L = Z_2$), thereby providing a second reflectogram, determining in the time domain a feature which distinguishes the first reflectogram from the second reflectogram, identifying from the feature the second loop termination out of the at least three loop terminations (CP = TERM 2), as substantially described in independent claims 1 and 6. These limitations, in combination with the remaining limitations of claims 1 and 6, are not taught nor suggested by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

Art Unit: 2643

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bjork et al (5,128,619), Krekels et al (6,081,125), Randle et al (6,263,047), Krishnamachari et al (6,745,137), and Lo et al (6,825,672) teach a system and a method of determining cable characteristics using Time Domain Reflectometer (TDR).

Jacobsen (6,205,220) teaches a method and a system for reducing near-far cross-talk interference between channels in a communication system.

Nakayama et al (6,421,624) and Sugaya et al (US 2004/0196158) teach a network analyzer and/or spectrum analyzer.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duc Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-7503. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM to 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kuntz Curtis can be reached on 571-272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2643

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Duc Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2643

10/19/2005